



The risk management technical department of San Pedro Sula Municipality participated in the Alliance's advocacy actions for legal provisions to reduce flood risk

Who are we?

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk.

Our definition of resilience:

The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

Vision: Floods have no negative impact on people's and businesses' ability to thrive.

Goal: To increase social, political, and financial investment in community-based flood resilience-building through public, private, and third sector partnerships.



The Canal Maya, relief of the Chamelecón river, reduces the flood risks in the city of La Lima, Cortés. The Alliance is working on evidence to advocate for flood risk reduction legal regulations

Impact of flooding in Honduras

According to the annual Global Climate Risk Index produced by Germanwatch, Honduras is among the top five most vulnerable countries. The effects of disasters negatively impact development and increase poverty. In the last two decades, disasters have caused losses and damages to the country equivalent to US\$5,592 m. Flooding affects 14.8 per cent of the country's territory. In the Sula Valley, in northern Honduras, floods affect 26.6 per cent of the territory.

The Sula Valley is highly vulnerable to floods along the Ulúa and Chamelecón rivers, which have caused enormous losses to residents, housing, productive infrastructure, and livelihoods. In response, the State has created the Flood Control Commission of the Sula Valley to develop actions for risks reduction. However, there are still challenges to face.

All photos: Jefferson Mejía, (San Manuel, Cortes 2020) archivo fotográfico proyecto de la Alianza para la Resiliencia ante Inundaciones en el Norte de Honduras, Cruz Roja Hondureña, Honduras C.A. Institutional logo and map of the project are the creation of Jefferson Mejía of communications and image of the Honduran Red Cross.

Alliance partner working in Honduras



The Honduran Red Cross, founded on 24 September 1937, is a voluntary, private, non-profit humanitarian association with an active legal status. It serves as an auxiliary to the public authorities in

the field of humanitarian affairs. In accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Honduran Red Cross works to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable during crises and disasters, and promotes community resilience.

The Honduran Red Cross also engages in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy. For this, a partnership has been consolidated under the flood resilience project that includes the Permanent Contingency Commission of Honduras (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias, COPECO), the Flood Control Commission of the Sula Valley, the Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility, the three mayors of the municipalities of Villanueva, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma, the network of Municipal Emergency Committees of the Sula Valley, the Chapter of the Honduras Bar Association, and the Honduran Red Cross.

The partnership has carried out a study of the legal standards for flood risk reduction. The study reflects the strengths and weaknesses of the legal framework for flood risk reduction in Honduras and



The early warning system of the Chamelecón river has water level measurement stations. Community involvement is important for the reporting and care of the stations

serves as evidence for an advocacy campaign and to develop recommendations for improvements. The capacities of the partnership members for advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy as well as their understanding of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction have been strengthened. The partnership also provided space for the three municipalities to share their experiences of the Covid-19 response as well as challenges regarding advocacy.

Our objectives in Honduras:

- Develop a study of flood disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies, plans, guidelines, and legal frameworks in the municipalities of Villanueva, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma.
- Optimize collaboration on flood-related DRR through coordination networks, planning and execution of actions involving entities such as COPECO, the Flood Control Commission of the Sula Valley, municipalities, and other external actors, according to the Sendai Framework and the Central American policy on comprehensive disaster risk management (PCGIR).
- Share relevant information on legal frameworks for DRR with communities.
- Promote community participation on flooding DRR, primarily in the municipalities of the Sula Valley.

The communities we are working with

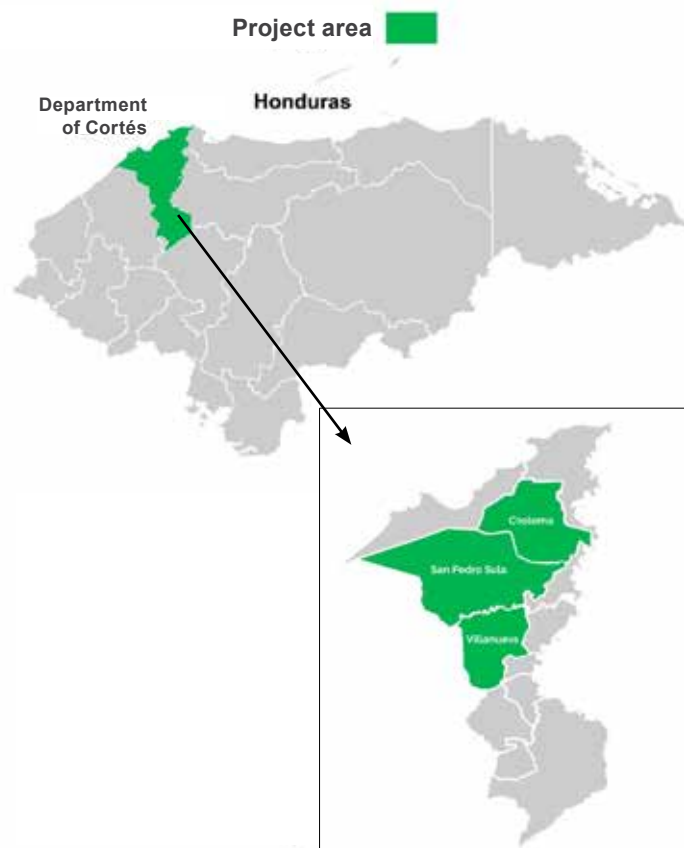
Many resilience-building actions can be taken at community level as communities often know best how and where they need to build resilience. Working with communities we can demonstrate tangible impact on people’s lives and learn from best practices which can help to shape policy at a higher level.

The Honduran Red Cross is developing actions within the framework of the Alliance. It works in the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Choloma, and Villanueva in the department of Cortés, with municipal governments, communities, and public and private organizations, with 106,000 indirect beneficiaries. These municipalities are home to 1.5 million people and have historically been affected by flooding, with serious consequences for the livelihoods and food security of thousands of families and communities.



The Municipal Emergency Committees of the municipalities of Choloma, San Pedro Sula and Villanueva are part of the Flood Resilience Alliance and engage in building a culture of prevention and resilience

Duration of the Honduras flood resilience programme: April 2019 – August 2021



The relationship of the Honduran Red Cross volunteers at municipal levels is important to strengthen the work with the actors of the Flood Resilience Alliance

The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities



Every year the Chamelecón river causes floods in several communities in the Sula Valley. Advocacy work is essential in reducing risks

The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework comprises two parts: the Alliance's framework for measuring community flood resilience and an associated tool for implementing the framework in practice.

Uses of the FRMC:

- As the first measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale; fully integrated into community programming
- To help analyse problems before seeking solutions
- To support impact measurement
- To generate data for empirical evidence on flood resilience

The Flood Resilience Portals

The Alliance's Flood Resilience Portals are online spaces for sharing practical knowledge about why and how to build community flood resilience. They bring together the knowledge generated and exchanged through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance and beyond.

 www.floodresilience.net

 www.foinundaciones.com



In partnership with:



Practical ACTION



Contact

Honduran Red Cross

Oscar Fernandez
Coordinator of the ZFRA Initiative
oscar.fernandez@cruzroja.org.hn
<http://www.cruzroja.org.hn/>

Members of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance are funded by the Z Zurich Foundation, with the exception of Zurich Insurance Group. However, the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official position of either the Foundation or the company.